

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 05734 070237Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 SP-02 INR-07

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3731

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5734

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, PH, GT, UK

SUBJECT: 30TH UNGA: BELIZE DISPUTE

REF: (A) STATE 262111; (B) STATE 254128; (C) GUATEMALA 6133

SUMMARY: ON OCTOBER 6 UK PERMREP CALLED ON AMBASSADOR BENNETT AND SPECIAL ADVISOR GARMENT TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF BELIZE. WE SHOWED RICHARD REFERENCE (A). RICHARD SAID THAT HIS PERSONAL OPINION IS THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR THE US TO ABSTAIN ON BOTH BELIZE RESOLUTIONS BUT THAT HE DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN SHARES HIS VIEW. IN HIS VIEW A US ABSTENTION WOULD PUT US IN POSITION TO BE HELPFUL BY WORKING TO CONVINCE THE GUATEMALANS THAT THE UK-CARIBBEAN RESOLUTION ON BELIZE IS NOTHING MORE THAN A GA EXERCISE THAT THE UK REGARDS AS AN UNNECESSARY INTRRUPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS WHICH THE UK HOPES TO RESUME. END SUMMARY.

1. ON OCTOBER 6, UK PERMREP IVOR RICHARD CALLED ON AMBASSADOR BENNETT, AND SPECIAL ADVISOR GARMENT TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF BELIZE. WE SHOWED RICHARD REFERENCE (A). RICHARD RESPONDED THAT THE QUESTION OF TIMING WOULD CAUSE TROUBLE. THE UK STRAGEGY IS FOR RICHARD TO RETURN TO GUATEMALA FOLLOWING THE ADOPTION OF THE UK-CARIBBEAN  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USUN N 05734 070237Z

RESOLUTION ON BELIZE WITH AN OUTLINE OF A NEGOTIATING

PACKAGE.

2. ON THE ICKJ, RICHARD SAID THAT UK ARE STILL VERY WORRIED ABOUT HOW TO FRAME THE QUESTION FOR THE ICJ AND ABOUT THE RELIABILITY OF THE ICJ.

3. RICHARD COMMENTED THAT THE UK-CARIBBEAN RESOLUTION ON BELIZE HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLY TONED DOWN DURING TWO WEEKS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE CARIBBEANS AND CITED THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC POINTS: A) LANGUAGE THAT BELIZE SHOULD PROCEED TO INDEPENDENCE WITH ITS TERRITORY INTACT WAS DELETED AT UK INSTANCE B) A COMMITMENT THAT ANY SETTLEMENT BETWEEN GUATEMALA AND THE UK MUST BE ACCEPTIBLE TO THE GOB WAS DELETED AT UK INSISTENCE C) THE CALL FOR RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS WAS INCLUDED AT UK INSISTENCE.

4. RICHARD SAID THERE IS LITTLE CHANCE OF AMENDING THE RESOLUTION AT THIS STAGE BUT THAT IF ANYONE WISHES TO TRY THEY MUST NEGOTIATE WITH THE CARIBBEAN COSPONSORS RATHER THAN UK. HE SUGGESTED THAT WE SHOULD ALL WORK TO CONVINCE THE GUATEMALANS THAT IF THE UK-CARIBBEAN RESOLUTION IS PASSED IT IS ONLY A GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION, NO MORE, AND THAT THE UK IS READY TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS. THE UK HAS TOLD THE GUATEMALANS THAT THEY REGARD THE UN EXERCISE AS AN UNNECESSARY INTERRUPTION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH THE UK DID NOT DESIRE BUT WHICH WAS INSISTED ON BY THE GOB.

5. RICHARD ESTIMATES THAT THE UK-CARIBBEAN RESOLUTION WILL BE APPROVED BY APPROXIMATELY 100 DELEGATIONS AND THAT THE GUATEMALAN RESOLUTION WILL NOT CARRY. HE WILL MAKE A LOW KEY SPEECH ALONG THE LINES OUTLINED ABOVE EMPHASIZING THAT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UN ARE A "GAP" IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

6. USUN MISSION OFFICER ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF DELAYING THE VOTE ON THE BELIZE RESOLUTIONS TO ALLOW TIME FOR FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN TO CONSIDER OUR PROPOSALS AND FOR TEMPERS TO COOL. RICHARD REPLIED THAT THE VOTE WILL NOT COME FOR TWO WEEKS OR SO IN ANY CASE AND THAT BASED ON HIS RECENT MEETINGS WITH GUATEMALAN DELEGATION

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USUN N 05734 070237Z

OFFICER SKINNER-KLEE TEMPERS ARE NOT "TOO BAD". NOTING THAT GUATEMALAN FOREIGN MINISTER MILINA HAD DESCRIBED THE UK-CARIBBEAN RESOLUTION AS "TOTALLY UNACCEPTIBLE" USUN MISSION OFFICER ASKED RICHARD IF HE THOUGHT THE GUATEMALANS PERCEIVED THE RESOLUTION AS "HUMILIATING" AND NECESSITATING A MILITARY RESPONSE IF ADOPTED. RICHARD SAID THAT THE CIVILIANS AND MILINA IN PARTICULAR DID NOT BUT THAT IF WAS HARD TO KNOW WHAT THE GUATEMALAN

MILITARY ARE THINKING.

7. RICHARD, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, AND EMPHASIZING THE FONSEC CALLAGHAN MIGHT NOT AGREE SAID HE DOES NOT WANT THE US TO VOTE FOR THE UK-CARIBBEAN RESOLUTION. THE ADVANTAGE IN HIS OPINION OF US ABSTENTION ON BOTH RESOLUTIONS IS THAT WE COULD PRESERVE OUR CREDIBILITY WITH THE GUATEMALANS SO THAT WE WOULD HAVE THE "MUSCLE" TO HELP WHEN IT IS NEEDED. HE SAID THAT MOST EUROPEAN DELEGATIONS WILL VOTE FOR THE UK-CARIBBEAN RESOLUTION.

8. THANKING RICHARD FOR HIS FRANKNESS AND EXPRESSING INFORMAL AGREEMENT WITH HIS SUGGESTION, WE TOLD HIM THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT YET REACHED ANY DECISION ON THE MATTER. RICHARD SAID IT WAS A SHAME THAT THERE WAS SUCH A FUSS ABOUT A MATTER AS UNIMPORTANT AS BELIZE AND DESCRIBED BELIZE AS "NOT THE MOST SHINING EXAMPLE OF 300 YEARS OF BRITISH COLONIAL RULE"

COMMENT: WE UNDERSTOOD FROM REFERENCE B THAT UK WISHES USUN TO WORK WITH UKUN TO "ACHIEVE A RESOLUTION WHICH THE USG CAN SUPPORT". RICHARD EMPHASIZED THAT HE WAS EXPRESSING HIS OWN OPINION ON THE US VOTE ON THE BELIZE RESOLUTIONS WHICH MAY EXPLAIN THE APPARENT CONTRADICTION. USUN AGREES WITH RICHARD AND WITH AMBASSADOR MELOY (REFERENCE C) THAT THE MOST USEFUL COURSE FOR US TO FOLLOW ON THE RESOLUTIONS IS ABSTENTION ON BOTH.  
BENNETT

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O, MR. JOHNSON.

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